

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. 210907-104

WHEREAS, Numerous studies have established a link between exposure to transit at an early age and continued use in adult years, along with a decrease in auto-ownership; and

WHEREAS, In support of this goal, the SFMTA implemented the Free Muni for Youth pilot program in 2013 providing free transit service to all low and moderate-income youth in San Francisco aged 5 through 17 years old; and

WHEREAS, Several months later this was expanded to include students enrolled in Special Education and English Learner programs through age 22; and

WHEREAS, In January 2017, the Free Muni for Youth Program was expanded to include 18 year olds; and

WHEREAS, There are 39,350 active users of the Free Muni for Youth program, representing approximately 72% of those who are eligible; and

WHEREAS, In order to participate in the program, parents submit an application to the SFMTA, and a Clipper card loaded with a Free Muni pass is mailed to their residence; and

WHEREAS, This application process and requirement to carry a pass to utilize the free program has been identified as a barrier to access; and

WHEREAS, On April 21, 2020, as part of SFMTA's FY 2021 and 2022 Operating Budget, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved a fare change to expand the Free Muni program to All Youth 18 years and under; however, on June 30, 2020, in response to the Covid-19 health crisis, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved a replacement FY 2021 and 2022 Operating Budget in which all fare changes approved in April, 2020 were subsequently rolled back including the expansion of the Free Muni for All Youth; and

WHEREAS, As part of the City's Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposed by Mayor London Breed, two million dollars has been allocated to fund a twelve-month pilot program to expand the Free Muni for Youth program to all youth; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of this program to all youth would eliminate the application and proof of payment requirement, removing barriers to the program; and

WHEREAS, Given the prior approval of this fare change by the SFMTA Board in April 2020, and anticipating an appropriation by the full Board of Supervisors to fund this expansion, this program was implemented as a short-term experimental fare change under the authority

granted to the Director of Transportation beginning on August 15, 2021 to correspond with the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, A Free Muni pass will continue to be issued by the SFMTA to students enrolled in the San Francisco Unified School District's English Learner and Special Education Services programs through the age of 22, and San Francisco youth who utilize cable car service to continue to use their existing pass for cable car service; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Charter Section 16.112 and the SFMTA Board of Directors Rules of Order, advertisements were placed in the City's official newspaper regarding the public hearing which ran in the San Francisco Examiner, the City's official newspaper, on August 22, August 25 – 27, 2021, and August 29, 2021, to provide notice that the SFMTA Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on September 7, 2021, to consider this program; and

WHEREAS, On August 9, 2021, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the Free Muni for all Youth program expansion is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b); and

WHEREAS, A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and is incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to programs and services receiving federal funding and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin from federally funded programs such as transit and in order to remain compliant with Title VI requirements and ensure continued federal funding, the SFMTA must analyze the impacts of fare changes on minority and low-income populations in compliance with the FTA's updated Circular 4702.1B; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA prepared a Title VI analysis of the impact of the proposed fare changes on low-income and minority communities in San Francisco and has determined that there is no disparate impact to minority populations or disproportionate burden to low-income populations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the SFMTA Board approves the Title VI analysis of the impact of the proposed fare changes on low-income and minority communities in San Francisco, which determined that there is no disparate impact to minority populations or disproportionate burden to low-income populations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors approves retroactively a twelve-month pilot program beginning August 15, 2021 through August 14, 2022 waiving Muni fares for regular service for customers 18 years of age and younger and students enrolled in the San Francisco Unified School District's English Learner and Special Education Services programs through the age of 22, and cable car fares for San Francisco youth.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of September 7, 2021.



Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency